

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

S E C R E T STATE 196617

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, SP, GW

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO: APPROACH TO FRG

REF: NATO 4237, BONN 12993

1. FOREIGN OFFICE INSTRUCTION BEING PREPARED FOR  
TRANSMISSION TO THE GERMAN NATO DELEGATION CONCERNING

SPAIN AND THE FRG (REPORTED BONN 12993) GIVES RISE TO  
CONCERN HERE THAT THE FRG POLICY OF "GO SLOW, SMALL  
STEPS" WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE MORE POSITIVE  
GERMAN ATTITUDE ARTICULATED BY MOD GEORG LEBER IN  
BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SECDEF ON JUNE 12 IN BRUSSELS.

2. IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS, LEBER EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH  
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SECDEF'S VIEW THAT NOW IS THE TIME FOR MOVEMENT, BEFORE

NEW CRITERIA FOR SPANISH ENTRY ARE RAISED. LEBER SAID THAT MULTIPLE BILATERAL CONTACTS WERE ESSENTIAL SO THAT, IN TIME, NATO WOULD SIMPLY CONFIRM A RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTED. FURTHER, LEBER TOOK UPON HIMSELF THE TASK OF TALKING-UP SPAIN-NATO RELATIONS WITH THE DANES AND THE DUTCH, AND SUGGESTED THAT SECDEF DO THE SAME WITH THE CANADIANS, BRITISH AND NORWEGIANS.

3. WHILE THE STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE FRG TO DEVELOP ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH SPAIN ARE USEFUL, NECESSARY AND ENCOURAGING, WE HAD HOPED AND CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT, WITH US, THE GERMANS WOULD PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN MOVING THE ALLIES TOWARDS SPAIN AND VICE VERSA. WE THOUGHT THAT LEBER'S EXPRESSED ATTITUDE REFLECTED GERMAN WILLINGNESS TO DO SO. UNFORTUNATELY, MFA POSITION

REPORTED BONN 12993 RAISES QUESTIONS RE WHERE FRG POLICY IS HEADING, UNLESS IT MERELY REFLECTS THE CONSTRAINTS OF PRE-ELECTION SITUATION.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON NEAR-TERM PROSPECTS FOR A MORE POSITIVE, SUPPORTIVE POLICY AND ON EXTENT TO WHICH FRG POLICY MIGHT GAIN MOMENTUM ONCE ELECTIONS ARE OVER. HABIB

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